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## KOHLI'S PONG WORLD WIDE MAN HUNT ENDS IN TOWN

The proverbial "long arm of the law" has once again proved to be really long with Maninderpal Singh Kohli finally being nabbed by the police at Pannighatta about 110 km from Kalimpong under the Naxalbari Police Station. After a massive world wide man hunt spanning a year and a half and covering two continents, the drama finally ended after a dramatic 24 hour cat and mouse game between Kohli and the Darjeeling Police.

Maninderpal Singh Kohli, who is accused to have raped and then brutally killed 17 year old Hannah Foster in Southampton, England, had been on the run since the murder and was in hiding in Kalimpong since the last three months. Kohli, a resident of Mohali near Chandigarh, had been working in Southampton as a driver for a delivery company and is learnt to have been a neighbour of the Foster family. The Foster family has accused Kohli of raping and murdering Hannah before dumping

her body in a nearby jungle. Kohli disappeared from Southampton immediately after the murder.

Kohli had been hiding in North Bengal since the last six months and had been in Kalimpong since the last couple of months where he had managed to lure a local girl, Bharati Das, into marrying him. Bharati is the daughter of well known social worker of the town, Mr. O.B.Das who is the Honourary Secretary of the Kalimpong Red Cross Society.

Kohli's past caught up with him when his photograph was printed in the Telegraph newspaper dated 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2004. Hannah's parents, Hillary and Trevor Foster have been camping in India since the last few weeks in an effort to find the killer of their daughter and the photographs were printed in response to the appeal made by them to the public of India.

Locals, after finding resemblance between the photograph in the newspaper and the person they had been seeing in Kalimpong town, tipped off the police leading law enforces on to his tail. Kohli sensing that his cover had been blown fled to Siliguri with Bharati in tow where he spent a night at Pradhannagar. Superintendent of Police of

Darjeeling Mr. Rajiv Mishra informed that Kohli fled Siliguri early next morning for Pannighatta wherefrom he was apprehended that very afternoon.

In a Press Conference convened to announce the arrest of Kohli, Mr. Rajiv Mishra said, "The family of the local girl married by Kohli seemed unaware of Kohli's past and probably he had married the girl only as a cover."

Locals in the town recall seeing Kohli with his new wife in town. Infact Kohli had portrayed himself in Kalimpong as a person interested in social service and had also attended several Hepatitis B vaccine camps that a local NGO had organized. Several locals recall even shaking hand with him during these camps.

The suspect was produced in Kalimpong in the court of the SDJM on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July who remanded him to a 15 day judicial custody. The court later handed him over to the CBI.



*Kohli & Bharti after their marriage*



*Kohli with S. P. Rajiv Mishra*

## Editorial

A couple of weeks back a lot of hue and cry went up in town after an incident involving a student being beaten up by a teacher in a particular school in Kalimpong. This school SUMI, to name it, one of the oldest in the region, has the distinction of having produced a large number of students who have made Kalimpong proud and quite frankly have contributed towards making Kalimpong what it is today. It has had great men like Rev. Sutherland, Dr. J.A.Grahams, K.D. Pradhan & P.R. Pradhan, imparting knowledge to several generations of Kalimpong. They were men who used a combination of knowledge, love, understanding and also 'the stick' to mould and refine school students into responsible citizens of the town & country.

But the immense contribution of SUMI to the town is not the subject matter here. What this piece aims to deal with is whether the amount of hue and cry in the town and in the media about the caning of the student, was actually justified. Is the teacher who caned the student, really so devilish and cruelty personified as the media and a particular political organization portrayed him to be?? Or was the media and subsequently the public via the media fed with an exaggerated account of the entire episode by people with ulterior motives??

The fact is that grooming a child into become a fine citizen, like all of us know, is a tough tough job and requires lots of patience, lots of love and care & lots of understanding. It also requires, whether you agree to it or not, the use of a few cane from time to time even if just so that the child is reminded of the limits he or she is to remain within. This is what the teacher in SUMI probably tried to do but probably got carried away a little too far.

While it is in no way my intention or desire to justify excessive use of "the cane" in any of our school, I believe a little bit of the cane is a necessary evil for attaining the greater good. Hence I believe that this particular incident in SUMI was blown out of proportions. Common & civilized sense suggests that in case if any incident such as the above occurs it has to be settled between the two parties i.e. the school and the parent. No other party, whether it be the media or any political or social organization or for that matter any third party, should have the right to intervene.

Indiscipline, unruly behavior and misconduct amongst our children will rule supreme if intervention by third parties are allowed. Do we really want such a scenario to unfold??

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Your cover story ( Vol 2, Iss 2) on Neha Agarwal and Angel Pradhan, indeed was an eye opener for the youths of Kalimpong. It proves that Kalimpong as a town is full of talented youths. The only thing that it lacks is the infrastructure to polish and nurture these talents into National level stars.

The youth of Kalimpong has the talent and dedication, like Neha, Angel, Sonam Sherpa, Adrin Rai, Surabhi Rai and others have proved. They were successful in their field only because of their own efforts with little or no inputs from the powers that be.

The youths of the town wish that efforts are made by the concerned authorities to provide us the required infrastructure, using which the other youths of the town too can prove their worth.

Thanking You,

Srijana Pradhan

11<sup>th</sup> Mile.

Dear Editor,

Recently to my amusement, I saw a shabbily written banner hung in Main Road, put up by a local club. The banner read- "Keep your town neat and clean".

While the intention of the club certainly is noble, what we should understand and realize is that banners such as the above are one of the reasons why Kalimpong looks so shabby and untidy. Main Road has become one big advertisement board with every event organizer worth his salt putting up banners at Main Road in the process making it more like a circus rather than a town inhabited by civic sensed citizens. Little do the event organizers realize that the banners they put up give Kalimpong a really untidy look.

The authorities should ensure that Main Road is free of any such banners and that even if banners have to be put up, they are removed after the completion of the event that the banner is announcing. This will be a step towards a presentable and decent looking Kalimpong.

Yours truly,

B.K.Shah,

Rinkingpong Road

DO YOU HAVE ANY THING THAT  
YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH THE  
REST OF KALIMPONG ???

HAVE YOUR SAY AT

YOUR PAGE



# LANDSLIDE CLAIMS LIVES OF MOTHER AND UNBORN

Death came calling early in the morning in Tika Kalikotey's house when a landslide swept away his modest hut claiming the life of his wife Mina and critically injuring him and one other.

Merciless they usually are but this landslide was cruel enough to stifle out another life- that of the unborn child that was growing inside Mina's womb.

With the death of thirty eight year old Mina Kalikotey landslide took its first victim this year in the sub division and going with what local people had to say one more

life could be counted for with Mina being pregnant. The landslide, which took place,

around seven in the morning at 7 mile completely damaged two houses injuring Mina's forty year old husband Tika Kalikotey and forty year old widow Budhiraya Mikhia who

According to locals the landslide there was caused by the overflowing of the drainage system of a school, which passes through their area. Talking about the landslide twenty

four year old Kapil Kalikotey a local said, "Soon as we came to know about the landslide we went to help them. We could hear Mina 'kaki' (aunty) shouting from below the mud that had covered her while Tika 'kaka' (uncle) had been covered by mud till the neck. We hurriedly tried to take them out. Budhiraya 'kaki' fortunately sustained only minor injuries as she was just going out of her house at that time." Mina and Tika were newly wed and had just shifted there about three months ago while Budhiraya a widow lived alone. According to locals Mina was pregnant.

They also said that three more houses were in a vulnerable position as the land was sinking more.



## FUTURE OF KALIMPONG



SAI VILAKSHANA  
THAPA  
25.07.03

## NEW YOUTH MAGAZINE TO HIT STANDS

Youth of the Darjeeling Hills, are all set to have their very own magazine. Jhasang, an English magazine catering to the taste, needs and interest of the youth of the Darjeeling Hills will be hitting the stands shortly.

This magazine an effort by a few Kalimpong based youth will have different sections on education, career options, music, interviews, profile of local talents as well as other article of interest. Says Reza Pradhan the editor of

Jhasang, "The needs and tastes of the youths of the region are complex and unique to the region. Jhasang will attempt to cater to these needs."

The magazine will initially have twenty pages with a four colour cover & back page and will be published ones in every two months. The cover price is expected to be Rs 20/- per copy, though efforts are being made to reduce the cover price.

# Town to stage winter fest again

By Staff Correspondent



Those of you who missed the extravaganza the last time need not worry- the mega event of last year is all set to make a reappearance this year too. In fact, as per the organizers, this time it is going to be bigger and more exciting.

The eight day cultural festival named the Kalimpong Winter Fest, which in many ways was a path breaker in the history of Kalimpong, will be organized this year too. The festival is scheduled to be held from the 25<sup>th</sup> of December to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December, the same dates as last year. The organizers of this event have

proposed to hold this festival as an annual event during the same dates each year.

The festival, last year, was held in Kalimpong, Pedong, Teesta, and Relli and this year Lava, Gumbadara, Gitdabbling and Rishab too would be included in the itinerary. Says Mr. Bimal Pradhan one of the

co-ordinators of the event, "This year we are planning to organize special attractions like bungee jumping, trekking, cycle rallies and beauty pageants etc to woo the tourists to Kalimpong. In additions to these, musical programmes, conducted tours, f b w e r, photo & painting exhibitions etc will also be held."

The Kalimpong Winter Fest organized and held by a group of youths of the town with whole hearted supports and co-operation from the entire town was organized to promote Kalimpong as a tourist destination. Says Mr. Tshering

Topgyal one of the organizer, "The motive behind holding this festival was to promote tourism in the town as well as to showcase the rich culture & heritage of Kalimpong."

One special aspect of the entire event was that the organizer had organized the festival without raising any funds by way of donation from the town. "The entire festival was supported by funds from sponsors like Maruti Udyog Ltd., P.C. Net & the Telegraph etc. DGAHC contributed towards the success of the event by releasing funds for the same. Besides financial support was also received from the WBFD, MES and 87RCC," say Tshering.

The organizers have issued an appeal for help to all the town folks for organizing this event this year. Wg.Cmd. Prafulla Rao, one of the main persons behind the show says, "The festival was a success last year as the entire town participated and supported the event. Since this year the festival is being organized in a bigger manner we need more people to stage it. We appeal to the youth of the town to come forward and become a part of the organizing team."

## AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN

In a move that could change the lives & fortunes of scores of unemployed youth of the region the Station Head Quarters of the Indian Army in Kalimpong is conducting coaching classes for youths who aspire to join the Indian Army. This first of its kind training programme has been initiated by the Army at Kalimpong with the Administrative Commandant of Station Head Quarters, Col. A.K. Rai, taking the lead. This noble project was taken up by the Army seeing the plight of the hill youth, who despite full-filling all eligibility criteria's for recruitment in the Army, still lose out on the jobs due to insufficient knowledge

and proper guidance.

The 40 day training programme is aimed at preparing eligible candidates for the recruitment examination conducted by the Army. Physical training as well as theory classes are conducted every day during the training period. The trainees are put through a routine of physical training in the mornings, theory classes during the day and end the day again with physical training classes. Those interested in joining this programme are required to undergo a basic medical and physical examination followed by a academic test. The best part of the entire programme is that it is free for

everyone with the trainees not having to pay any amount for undergoing the training programme.

The first batch of trainees having completed their training period, have had immediate success. Out of the 34 who underwent training, nineteen have qualified in the recruitment test and eight of them have already joined the forces. The screening for the next batch of trainees is underway.

At present training for the ranks of Sepoys, Hawaldars, and Subedars is only being conducted but as per sources, training for the rank of Officers will be started in the near future.



# Petrol pump relocated-

## But will the petrol quality improve????

By Anup Moktan

With all three of its petrol pumps situated in the heart of the town, residents of the town were literally sitting atop a time bomb. Now with two of the three petrol pumps having relocated to lesser populated parts of the town, Kalimpong no longer has to live in fear. The wait finally seems to be over with the Ratiram Bansilal Pump having shifted to Top Khana. The other two pumps too have been relocated in the 8<sup>th</sup> mile area though not fully operational till date. They are expected to provide service from their new outlets by another month.

Though all these three refilling station had been providing service at Motor Stand since their establishment and were no doubt

conveniently located from the vehicle owners point of view, their relocation was necessitated after a huge public outcry following the three major fires that broke out in town. The three major fires on 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 1995, 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 1996 & 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 1997 had destroyed property worth crores in the town and one of them was stated by a Petrol tanker while refilling one of the petrol tanks at motor Stand. The fear that one day, one or all of the petrol tanks at motor stand would catch fire & burst in the process destroying the entire town, was a major fear in the minds of the town residents.

The Ratiram Bansilal pump which was shifted to Top Khana has a storage capacity

of 15,000 liters of petrol and 20,000 liters of diesel and is a dealer of Bharat Petroleum. Several leading personalities of Kalimpong like Mr. Dawa Pakhrin, MLA Mr. Gaulan Lepcha, other DGHC Councilors and officers from the Bharat Petroleum were present for the inauguration ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Pakhrin said, "This is a positive step towards building a safer and newer Kalimpong and I congratulate the management of the Pump for the step."

Vehicle owners of the town can only hope that with a better location for the pumps, the quality of petrol supplied by these pumps too would become better.

## SEARCH FOR SPORTING TALENT ON

In an effort to unearth new sporting talent in the Darjeeling Hills, the DGHC Education Department has initiated steps at the school level towards achieving this goal. A co-ordinate effort in this direction has been started with the Education Department of the DGHC, various schools of the Darjeeling Hills and well as various sub-committees chipping in efforts to bring out the hitherto hidden sporting talents of the Hill Youth. As per the Annual report released by the "Kalimpong School Sports & Co-curricular Activity committee," which is the monitoring body of this effort in Kalimpong, sporting activities like football, Volleyball, Badminton, Basketball, Table Tennis, Athletics & Archery were organized for the benefit of the youth of Kalimpong. In football, under 14, under 17, and under 19 tournaments for boys and under 19 tournaments for Girls were organized. As per the competition format prepared by the organizers, the schools compete against each other in the sub-divisional level with the winning school representing Kalimpong in the district level tournament. Out of the outstanding players from the tournaments, the DGHC team is subsequently formed which represents DGHC in state level tournaments. As a result of the efforts put in by the committee several outstanding performers were found in the last year. In the state level Girls football tournament the DGHC team fought their way through the tournament to end up as Runners up. In Volleyball the under 19 DGHC team ended up as the state Runners up. Badminton saw Pravin Lama of SUMI become the 7<sup>th</sup> ranks players in West Bengal. As per the schedule released by the Kalimpong School Sports & Co-Curricular Activities committees which has Mr. N.R. Pradhan of SUMI as the Honorary Secretary, Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Badminton, Archery and Athletic meets will be organized from the month of June this year to early October.

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**KALIMPONG MUNICIPAL ELECTION 2004 RESULTS****Ward No. I.**

1	SRI. TARA SUNDAS	83
2	SRI. DEPAK GAZMER	2
3	SRI. DILIP SINGH	243
4	SRI.PANCHAM SEWA	3
5	SRI. PRAVIN RAHAPAL	305
6	SRI. PAWAN SUNDAS	4

Total number of valid votes: 637

Total number of invalid votes: 10

Total number of tendered votes: NIL

**Ward No. II.**

1	SRI. URGEN LAMA	30
2	SRI. DINESH MITTAL	314
3	SRI. DILIP RAI	157
4	SRI. NARAYAN GAZMAIR	26
5	SRI. BHIMLAL DANGAL	3
6	SRI. MUMTAZ AHMED	242
7	SRI. HEM KUMAR RAI	1

Total number of valid votes: 773

Total number of invalid votes: 12

Total number of tendered votes: NIL

**Ward No.III.**

1	SMT. KALPANA DARNAL	339
2	SMT. PUSHPA DURAL	221
3	SMT. RITA SUNDAS	50
4	SMT. ROSHNI RUCHAL	14

Total number of valid votes: 624

Total number of invalid votes: 13

Total number of tendered votes: NIL

**Ward No.IV.**

1	SMT. ANJANA RAI	146
2	SMT. KANTA RAI	298
3	SMT. REETA THAPA	10
4	SMT. RUNA PRADHAN	262

Total number of valid votes: 716

Total number of invalid votes: 9

Total number fo tendered votes: NIL

**Ward No. V.**

1	SRI. KIRAN BISWAKARMA	104
2	SRI. DEEPAK GAZMER	20
3	SRI. BIJOY SUNDAS	452
4	SRI. BHIM DARNAL	396
5	SRI.MANU SHILAL	10

Total number of valid votes: 982

Total number of invalid votes: 10

Total number of tendered votes: NIL

**Ward No. VI.**

1	SRI. KAPIL BANIA	125
2	SRI. KARNA HANG SUBBA	259
3	SRI. GOPAL RUCHAL	14

Total number of valid votes: 398

Total number of invalid votes: 7

Total number of tendered votes: NIL

**Ward No. VII.**

1	SRI. INDIRA BDR. TAMANG	12
2	SRI. DHENDUP BHUTIA	450
3	SRI. THENDUP BHUTIA	1
4	SRI. DINESH LAMA	175
5	SRI. DIPANKAR LAMA	1
6	SRI NORDEN LAMA	460
7	SRI. BASANT MOKTAN	4
8	SRI. LOBSANG TENDUP BHUTIA	132

Total number of vslid votes: 1235

Total number of invalid votes: 20

Total number of tendered votes: NIL

**Ward No. VIII.**

1	SRI. ASHOK CHETTRI	281
2	SRI. JAGAT RAI	148
3	SRI. DILIP PRADHAN	51
4	SRI. MANI KUMAR RAI	178
5	SRI. SASHI KUMAR LAMA	75
6	SRISAROJ RAJ PRADHAN	34

Total number of valid votes: 776

Total number of invalid votes: 8

Total number of tendered votes: NIL

**Ward No. IX.**

1	SMT. EDUN TAMANG	212
2	SMT. TSHERING YUDEN BHUTIA	406
3	SMT. TASHI LHAMU BHUTIA	81

Total number of valid votes: 699

Total number of invalid votes: 17

Total number of tendered votes: NIL

**Ward No. X.**

1	SMT. KAMALA RAI	282
2	SMT. LHAMU SHERPA	296
3	SMT. SABITRA CHETTRI	142

Total number of valid votes: 720

Total number of invalid votes: 25

Total number of tendered votes: NIL

**Ward No. XI.**

1	SRI. AMAN CHISTI	246
2	SRI. KELSANG DORJEE	25
3	SRI. GAMBIRAY TAMANG	512
4	SRI. TOPDEN TSHERING BHUTIA	38
5	SRI. BENJAMIN BRITTO LEPCHA	24
6	SRI. SONAM TSH. MOKTAN	433

Total number of valid votes: 1278

Total number of invalid votes: 20

Total number of tendered votes: 1

**Ward No. XII.**

1	SRI. ADITYA RAI	396
2	SRI. DRRGA NARAYAN PRADHAN	69
3	SRI. PRAWIN KUMAR CHETTRI	26
4.	SHRI SHANKAR PRADHAN	63

Total number of valid votes: 554  
 Total number of invalid votes: 5  
 Total number of tendered votes: NIL

**Ward No. XIII.**

1	SRI. UGEN MOKTAN	411
2	SRI. PASSANG SHERPA	439
3	SRI. MOHAN POUDYAL	138

Total number of valid votes: 988  
 Total number of invalid votes: 11  
 Total number of tendered votes: NIL

**Ward No. XIV.**

1	SMT. PURNIMA PRADHAN	13
2	SMT. MAMTA ADHIKARI	44
3	SMT. MRIDULA SUBBA	317

Total number of valid votes: 374  
 Total number of invalid votes: 8  
 Total number of tendered votes: NIL

**Ward No. XV.**

1	SRI. KRISHNA THAPA	42
2	SRI. BIRENDRA SINGH CHAWAN	6
3	SRI. BAL KRISHNA THAPA	343
4	SRI. MAXIMUS KALIKOTAY	505

Total number of valid votes: 896  
 Total number of invalid votes: 13  
 Total number of tendered votes: NIL

**Ward No. XVI.**

1	SRI. TIKA RAM CHETTRI	172
2	SRI. NIMA DHONDUP BHUTIA	52
3	SRI. BIREN BHUJAL	146
4	SRI. MAXIMUS KALIKOTAY	158
5	SRI. MOURICE KALIKOTAY	157

Total number of valid votes: 685  
 Total number of invalid votes: 49  
 Total number of tendered votes: NIL

**Ward No. XVII.**

1	SMT. ARATI THAPA	117
2	SMT. MARY KALIKOTAY	14
3	SMT. HIRAN RIZAL	296

Total number of valid votes: 427  
 Total number of invalid votes: 15  
 Total number of tendered votes: NIL

**Ward No. XVIII.**

1	SMT. ANITA MUKHIA	182
2	SRI. KIRAN GURUNG	254
3	SRI. KISHOR KUMAR CHETTRI	14
4	SRI SUNIL PRADHAN	175

Total number of valid votes: 625  
 Total number of invalid votes: 7  
 Total number of tendered votes: NIL

**Ward No. XIX.**

1	SRI. AMAR HASAN	26
2	SRI. CHANDRA KUMAR KUMAI	887
3	SRI. TEJ KUMAR KHARGA	161

Total number of valid votes: 1074  
 Total number of invalid votes: 70  
 Total number of tendered votes: 1

**Ward No. XX.**

1	SMT. GOMA RUMBA	74
2	SMT. JYOTI RAI	148
3	SMT. BARBARA SHERPA	466
4	SMT. SHARDA SHARMA	9
5	SMT. SUSAN WATSON	113

Total number of valid votes: 810  
 Total number of invalid votes: 7  
 Total number of tendered votes: NIL

**Ward No. XXI.**

1	SRI. DANIEL CHETTRI	501
2	SRI. YOGEN GURUNG	122
3	SRI. HARKA BAHADUR CHETTRI	158

Total number of valid votes: 781  
 Total number of invalid votes: 16  
 Total number of tendered votes: NIL

**Ward No. XXII.**

1	SRI. TASHI TSHERING LEPCHA	49
2	SRI. DAVID ELIZAN	126
3	SRI. PUNAM GHISING	191
4	SRI. PHUP TSHERING TAMANG	187
5	SRI. SANTOSH SHARMA	9

Total number of valid votes: 562  
 Total number of invalid votes: 2  
 Total number of tendered votes: NIL

**Ward No. XXIII.**

1	SMT. TARA CHETTRI	198
2	SMT. DIPA RANI THAKURI	552
3	SMT. PABITRA PRADHAN	42

Total number of valid votes: 792  
 Total number of invalid votes: 11  
 Total number of tendered votes: NIL

# PURE SCIENCE OVER PLUS TWO

## KALIMPONG COLLEGE CLOSES DOWN PLUS TWO COURSE

BY ANUP MOKTAN

Kalimpong College will never be the same again!!! Those wanting to join this great institution right after completing their class X will no longer be able to do so. In a move that is sure to curtail educational options for score of students of Kalimpong, the College authorities have decided to close down Classes for Plus two (Class XI & XII) in this temple of knowledge. This decision no doubt is a blow to the aspirations of dozens of students of the town who had wished to continue their studies after Class X in Kalimpong College.

The Kalimpong College for decades had offered classes in the Commerce stream for the plus two level. This course was a morning session one where the students could attend classes from 6.45 AM to 10.30 AM and thereafter be free for either part time jobs or any other vocational training courses etc. Now students will have to join regular schools like Kumudini Homes, which offer the same course,

though will have full day classes. For many students, especially from the weaker section of the society, it is goodbye to studies after this decision by the College authorities. Dr. R.P. Dhakal, Principal of Kalimpong College, giving reasons for the discontinuation of this course says, "The introduction of the three year graduation course instead of the previous two year course has increased the workload of the teachers tremendously, hence this decision had to be taken." He goes on to say, "There were no permanent teachers for the plus two level in the College. We had to appoint part time teachers specially for this course. However since the number of students had decreased in the plus two level in the past few years, we were finding it difficult to meet the salary requirement of these part time teachers."

As per Col-

lege records, the last three sessions saw only 31, 35 & 48 students enrolling for this course. This is a dramatic fall in numbers considering the fact that a decade back it was not uncommon to find 400 plus students studying in this very course. However with the closure of the Plus two course, the management of the College has decided to include Economics honours and Pure Science in the graduation level. Also on the cards are two new courses- Communicative English and Tourism and Travel Management. "These two courses will be offered at a much lesser price to the students than those offered by other private institutions," said Dr. Dhakal. The College is also contemplating to start a new foreign language course.

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### KALIMPONG SPEAKS !!!!

#### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION-

'DO YOU THINK KALIMPONG MAIN ROAD SHOULD BE TURNED INTO A NO VEHICLE ZONE EACH EVENING?'

The verdict is clear- out of the total of 51 respondents, 36 think no vehicles should be allowed in Main Road in the evenings while only 15 think otherwise.



This issues question is

"Does Kalimpong require another Degree College??"

Answer in Yes or No by 28<sup>th</sup> of July 2004 and send it to us at

KALIMPONG SPEAKS

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# Who is afraid of Prakash Kobid?

By Pravin Moktan

In the 1920s when Indian Nepali writing was still in the cradle of commercial viability there was a genre that was enjoying a great deal of market success. These were your risqué verses written in the *sringar rasa*. Abounding in innuendoes and mildly erotic imageries of soldierly craving, these poems that spoke of the love lives of mercenaries and the tantrums of their reluctant lovers among other things, were a great hit amongst the literate and the semi literate readership of those days.

However there was a group of litterateurs who rued the lack of interest in serious literature. Much of this disdain found expression in the journals of that time. These publications were sophisticated works of journalism that had within their brief, the task of bringing about some sort of a social revolution by highlighting the low social, economic and educational status of the migrant Nepali populace of Darjeeling and elsewhere. These papers in a sense were the precursors of the more politically vociferous slogans (and agendas) that would be raised time and again in the hills in the future.

The emergence of the Nepali public sphere in India and the role played towards achieving the aforementioned objectives by those journals has been the subject of the theses of a young Scottish scholar Roderick Chalmers with the School of Oriental Studies, University of London. This seminal work also contains forays made by the researcher into understanding the world of Nepali publishing and the creation of Nepali print communities in India. He offers interesting insights and

conclusions based not just on the analysis of literary merits of the works of that time but also a path breaking examination of the type of market dynamics that made some publications sustainable while others had to fold up due to lack of readership. It is genuinely hoped that the questions that are raised in that theses will open up newer vistas for indigenous scholars to explore and expound.

However one remarkable fact that stands out in his study is what is pertinent to readership everywhere. That is, a major percentage of the literature that is bought and read panders to the tastes of a lowbrow readership. Even in the more sophisticated literary environment of the United States the inclusion of popular horror writer Stephen King into the literature hall of fame and the subsequent controversy that it raised speaks volumes about the unease with which the literati regards the merits of paperback hacks.

In Nepali therefore it is no surprise that in the democracy of readership the most widely read are those works that are churned out by the so-called "peddlers of pedestrian prose". The term democracy of readership is to imply the readership of those writers whose works have been bought not because of the dictates of faith (read Ramayana) or because they have been canonised in the syllabus of some examining board. The reading community that I am referring to in fact bought those books because they genuinely wanted to read them. In the seventies and the eighties for example, the commercial success of authors like Prakash "Kobid", Prakash Rana, Dil

Subba, Bhagirath Rawat and to an extent Subhas (you know who) bear witness to the fact that there was at one time a voluntary group of Nepali readers who bought books not out of any literary pretensions but because they genuinely wanted to read a novel, enjoy it, forget it and then buy the next one. Prakash Kobid in fact I am told by some from Bhutia Busty in Darjeeling, made a living (or what could be more plausible, supplemented considerably his primary school teacher's income) out of the books that he wrote. Its indeed a remarkable thing that there was once a time right here at home when it was possible to pay the bills by writing. How that changed is difficult to explain but forces as diverse as the growing Americanisation of the local youth, Hindi movies, television and cricket could have conspired at many levels to sound the death knell of popular Nepali fiction. This is perhaps one of the prices to pay when literature functions as a subset of "entertainment".

But there is another substantive explanation of what drove away the readership. This inevitably has to be the writers themselves. While a few died and at least one gave in to the pull of a higher calling, the rest fell into that trap of 'over literariness' that in a sense killed their art. As a result the majority of the literary output are nothing but a farrago of words that does not excite the present and one can safely assume has no worth for posterity to judge. More often than not the average person with the foolhardiness to print books and then the temerity to put them up for sale is an over sentimental individual, preoccupied with literary pretensions that he is neither

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capable nor inclined to do justice to. Unlike say a Prakash Kobid who was unabashedly simple and unpretentious about his craft the present lot would want to give you the impression that they are Nobel Prize material. They complicate things for the sake of it and that overwhelming sense of self-commiseration that pervade the majority of the works would have made the adjective Kafkaesque almost untenable if other worth could complement that desperation on paper. (It is also no coincidence I feel that a majority of the op ed pieces in the local Nepali dailies while being basically pastiches are written in styles so top heavy and convoluted that it is a wonder that people still read them).

Paradoxically, this downward slide in the quality of literary output has coincided with the growth of Nepali University Education that has provided us with sophisticated critics educated in the best critical traditions of both the worlds. The only problem is the banality of creative structures that these yardsticks set out to measure and evaluate.

Thus at the moment, we have the hapless situation where on the one hand literature does not cater to the masses because it is not sufficiently readable and it does not appeal to the higher critics either, as it is in fact quite unreadable.

In this bleak scenario there has however been a beacon of hope. IB Rai is that singular window that exposes the hills to the fresh breeze of World Class Literary trends. He has been untiring in his zeal to experiment and push the boundaries of meanings that words and expressions can convey.

But IB Rai's preoccupations with such exercises have proved increasingly elitist and divorced from the demands that the average (and at the moment non existent reader)

make of works in Indian Nepali. Recently there has been a brave but surprisingly muted crop of critics who feel that (i) IB Rai is too abstruse and that (ii) what he is doing is nothing novel or path breaking (IB they feel has been making the most of his scholarship and that his ease with languages other than Nepali allows him the liberty to transpose some of literary trends and thoughts in Nepali without the average reader being aware of it). Whatever merits these arguments may have, I somehow feel that in IB's hurry to experiment and theorise we somehow lost the writer who gave us such profound works like 'rat bahri hoori chalyo' and 'euta din ko samanyata'. He may in a certain dimension have grown as a writer but at least for the moment he has lost what Indian Nepali literature needs the most - readers. In fact so acute is the shortage that even at the point of being over simplistic I will not hesitate to say that what we need at the moment are the Prakash Kobids to bring back the readers who will buy and read Nepali books. People like IB can be showcased but they write for a different readership whose attention is also vied for by the likes of Derrida and Barthes, to name a few. But to give the stalwart the due I would like to recollect what the great man said in an interview that he gave to the Gangtok weekly NOW. He said that his Tesro Ayam movement derived itself from Einstein's Theory of Relativity. I thought this was a lot of name-dropping and bullshit. Pema the affable editor defended the great man by saying that something could be lost in translation and the journalistic exigencies of editing for want of space. Later when I put that Einstein comment into perspective I understood what IB had meant. As far as I understand it, Tesro Ayam is that

mode of writing that seeks to present reality the way it is, without any influences of the writer, or the frame of reference from which he is presenting it. The core of the special theory of relativity too is the same, that is the laws of physics (i.e. to an extent reality itself) have the same form through out the universe. Thus it really did not depend on the observer as reality had a separate, inviolate existence apart from him. Tesro Ayam sought to devise a set of vocabulary (borrowed at times from the other Arts) to express the totality of experience without any external impingements. Now I may be wrong but that in a sense is the futility of the whole exercise of trying to pin down IB.

This of course brings us to the other analogy from physics. Quantum Mechanics postulates that there is an inherent duplicity of nature that does not allow us, even with the best of intentions and equipments, to pin point its actuality.

In a sense I really miss Prakash Kobid.

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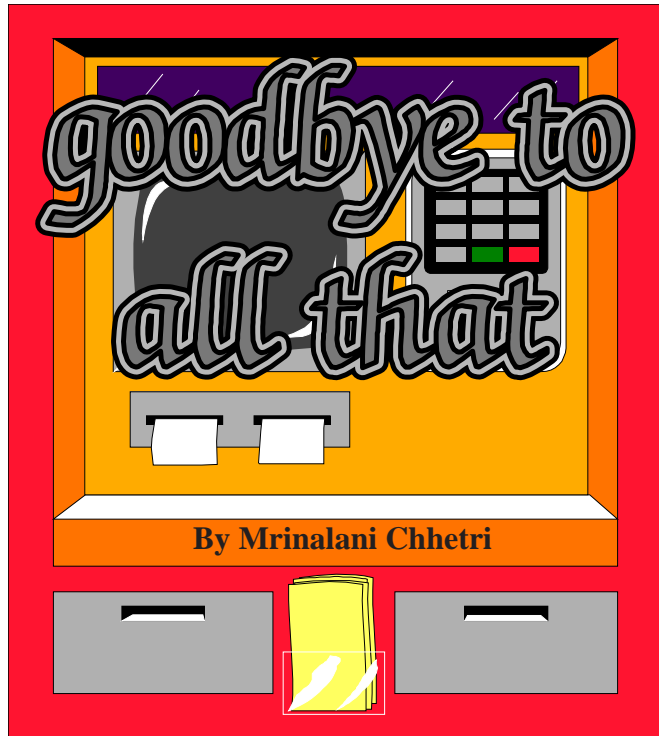
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Finally—it's goodbye to the cheque book, the long hours in front of the counters, the fight (or perhaps, the right) to enter the portals of the bank past those forbidding cast-iron grills (with space just enough for one person to squeeze through). It's goodbye to that panic-stricken rush before closing time or before holidays, and to that awful, sinking feeling during vacations when you realize you're running short of—what else—but money. So, what are we talking about? Obviously, that marvel of modern marvels, the ATM, the automated teller machine, or as the TV advertisement says, any time money! Trifle long, the wait (the atm opened three years back in Darjeeling and about twenty years ago in Delhi) but well worth it, in the end, I guess..

By now, the novelty of the machine seems to have eased up a bit— not surprising since it's already been

in use for maybe more than a few months. The curious crowd of on-lookers, with the security guard as guide, is missing. Also missing is the solicitous enquiry of the guard 'bhayo?' as you push open the door from inside. He's as blasé about it now as he is about, say, Kalash or even Lotus. Yet, due to this wondrous machine, it's a relief to know that whether 6p.m or 9a.m,

whether in Kalimpong, Siliguri or Delhi, procuring money is no longer any problem..

And so we move on to supposedly more advanced times with newer machines designed to make life simple, with almost everything available at the touch of a finger or a mouse. Like the move from the radio to the TV to the digital world. (Times were when our sole source of information was the radio—apart from the newspaper, and books, of course—the days of Ameen Sayani and Binaca Geetmala, VOA and Nepal Radio. Of hearing jingles like the 'mirinda' one on Nepal radio, and trying to figure out what it was). The move to electricity, LPG stoves, telephones, the ubiquitous pressure cooker, and scores of things too numerous to include. A family member could never get over the fall of grace of the pressure cooker over time. According to him, in the initial hey-

days of the cooker, it was always cleaned with the best of detergents and treated with the utmost respect. The detergent gave way to soap to ash, kharani, in local parlance), gradually becoming a part and parcel of the kitchen utensils, undeserving of any individual attention. Remember the days before cable television—the rows of slippers and shoes marking the house with a TV on Sunday mornings, the silence in the surrounding areas, and the awe and reverence with which the Ramayana or the Mahabharata was viewed, maybe on a 14" B/W TV.

So we move on, from natural to concrete jungles, Doordarshan to Star, Enid Blyton to Harry Potter—computers—mobiles, and from queues to the ATM, Hopefully, drop-boxes for payments of electricity and telephone dues, placed strategically at vantage points around town, are next. Wouldn't be such a bad idea considering the amount of time and energy one wastes standing in line to pay these dues at the respective offices (which also have the same, well-fortified structure, and don't open any extra counters during rush hours—to top it all, the bills arrive a day or two ahead of the last date payment so everyone's there, in a frantic scramble to pay their dues. And why one has to pay extra for a break-up or inclusion of all long-distant calls made is beyond comprehension—shouldn't it be a part of the bill itself? At least that way, one doesn't have to pay extra to find out if some 'hyena' is tapping and misusing one's line). Think about it, will you???



# Cottages of Dr. Grahams Homes

**By Reza Pradhan**

What started out, as a home for children of European descent in the Eastern Himalayas in the year 1900 for whom there was no educational provisions, later came to become a unique and well-known schools in the hills. One of the things that sets apart Dr. Grahams Homes at Kalimpong from the other schools is the distinctive cottage system for the boarding student here.

The idea of the cottage which was based on British institutions firstly catered to the orphans who were taught English and moreover the dignity of manual labour. The children in each of the cottage ranged from 20 to 30 in number with a House Mother caring for them. Some of this practice stays on even after the Home got converted into a school.

The cottages of the school came up slowly and presently it has twenty cottages in the 601 acres of land of the school. The management building in the middle separates the cottages of the boys and the girls.

The first cottage was the Kiernander Cottage, which was started on 24th September 1900. This was a hired bungalow at Tirpai, which was purchase at 1908. The cottage had then about six Anglo Indian children brought from Doears and later it was enlarged and made to accommodate more boys. This cottage was also used as a receiving cottage and a holiday home for the old boys. But due to the cottage being far away from the settlement of the school, it was sold in 1922.

The second cottage, which came up, was the Woodburn Cottage in 4th November 1901, which is now being used to house the girls studying and staying there. The opening of Eliot Cottage in May 24th 1902 followed this closely. The other cottages also followed suit very soon like the Calcutta Cottage, the



Strachan Cottage (this cottage was deemed to be unfit for students after a damage by an earthquake. It was later redesigned as the school office), the Thornburn Cottage, the Bene Cottage, the Laidlaw Cottage, the Eastern Bengal and Assam Cottage, the Lucia King Cottage, the Scottish Canadian Cottage, the Bhagalpur (Grant) Cottage, the MacGregor Cottage, the Mansfield Cottage, the Brissa Cottage, the Edinburgh Cottage (In 1969 the cottage was condemned due to the cracks in the walls and later it was demolished), the Heathland Cottage, the Hart Cottage, the Wales Lodge, Wiston Cottage, the Fraiser hostel, the Willingdon hostel and the Centenary Cottage which started in the year 2000 and was built by ex students of Dr. Grahams Homes.



Says David Foning the Bursar of Dr. Grahams Homes, "Dr. Grahams had a vision of the Dr. Grahams Homes when he first started out. Whenever a cottage or any of the buildings was complete he laid the foundation stone for another. It is due to his endeavor that the school is what it is today."

This one of a kind feature of the school not only attracts tourists and local people alike to just take a stroll in the school compound but also provides a one of a kind experience to the children studying there. "The children who stay in the cottages feel quite at home as we assign house parents in the cottages to look after them. Due to one cottage having only about 20 to 30 children individual attention can be given to each one. We feel that an all round development of a child is possible this way as we also show them dignity of labour." Says Foning further adding that due to the children belonging in different cottages they also have a sense of belonging to the cottage s/he is associated with which in turn arises healthy competition between them also.



# "MY MEN IN BLUE"

By Ms. EUGENIE SITLING

*(I write this piece only because I share a certain bond of fondness with this set of youngsters)*

"Will they? Won't they?..... Will they? Won't they?..... the atmosphere was tense and the spectators held their breath. This was not the scene from the recently concluded Euro 2004 nor was it the finals of the English Premiere League. No, nearer home, it was the nail biting finals between the St. Alphonso Football team from Kurseong and my very own "Men in Blue". The Kumudini Homes team. After being declared the winners in their respective Sub-divisions, Kurseong and Kalimpong, they were now both fighting for the position of District Champions that would give them the golden opportunity to represent the district in the prestigious Subroto Mukherjee Football Tournament for schools. My "Men in Blue" beat their opponents in a penalty shootout and I knew I would be sharing another 'cake' (my gift for each victory) with the victorious team. A glorious moment for the people of Kalimpong who cheered the team to victory.



I fondly call them "My Men in Blue" because I have grown extremely fond of them. Some of these players given the opportunity and encouragement, can go a long way (Unfortunately, I feel most of the talent is nipped in the bud because of lack of opportunity). Being a single parent of two sons who eat, walk and dream football, I have developed a deep love and interest for the game. Many a evening or night is often spent with my two sons, glued in front of the television, cheering for teams, oceans away, with great enthusiasm. It was this love we share for football. (Some may call it 'un' ladylike) that made my sons introduce me to some of the players of the Kumudini Homes team. Over cups of milk, bowls of soup and snacks, I grew closer to them. A village tournament organized by our M.L.A. Mr. Gaulan Lepcha in our village saw my sons play with these youngsters and emerge victorious. It was then that I saw the enthusiasm, grit and determination on the faces of these young boys who had set an aim for the year- to participate and represent the District in the Subroto Cup. These young "Men in Blue", aspiring "Ronaldo's", 'Figo's", "Beckham's and "Bhai

Chungs" started their preparation very early in the year under the guidance of their coach and mentor-Mr. Pranai Silal and their much loved inspiring manager Mr. Raju Rana. I have watched them, (some of them belonging to 'bustees' situated outside the town) running early in the morning 'bleary eyed', sleepy yet determined to reach the Mela Ground for their practice. Nothing stopped their practice, not the intense heat nor the early morning showers. Yes! "My Men in Blue" gave it their best and worked ceaselessly. Today, when I see the victorious team, I know that the age old saying, 'Practice makes a man perfect', has been proved true. Credit also goes to the school Principal, Shri Bhanu Baral, the entire member of the Kumudini teaching staff and the undying spirit of each of the students of the school who share a deep sense of unity and loyalty as they proudly cheer their team. I too sat in the stadium enjoying the 'jhaal moorie' and an occasional cup of hot coffee, while cheering for the team.

I read somewhere Sri. Alex Ferguson, (Coach of Manchester United) state- "You have to take the good with the bad in this game- At least it makes the good times really good!" Really good was the triumph of "My Men in Blue" at the District Level of the Subroto Tournament. This triumph I feel personally have lifted some of the gloom hanging over the football scenario in Kalimpong. Needless to say, the task ahead for "My Men in Blue" is no easy feat!. Playing in the state which is heralded as the "Mecca of Indian Football", they will need more than the mesmerizing dribbling skills and determination to make it big. However if Greece the underdogs at the beginning of the Euro 2004, could stir the world with their 'incredible' victory, may be "My Men in Blue" too will achieve something, somewhere.

Last year, when the I.C.S.E. Crossroad Test was held for the first time in D.G.H. I remember vividly what Mr. Wangchuck Basi (a person whom I ardently admire as a superb orator) told the gathering there. He concluded his speech saying "More power to the student of Kalimpong" Yes Sri! More power to the students and certainly more power to "My Men in Blue!"



# Recalling Kalimpong

By Dr. S. B. Wangyel

All Kalimpong residents are aware that Kalimpong was once a major station in one of the busiest caravanserais in Asia. In fact Sir Charles Bell is on record having said: "The most important of all trade-routes between India and Tibet takes off from Kalimpong in the district of Darjeeling, crosses south-eastern Sikkim and enters the Chumbi Valley by the Jelep La. ... Half of the entire trade between Tibet and India traverses the Lhasa-Kalimpong route."<sup>1</sup> Expectedly, it was the shrewd Marwari businessmen that blazed the new trail, nurtured it to maturity and eventually took it to dizzy height. It is written that, "With the establishment of the British Raj in Sikkim, the Marwaris began to expand their trading centers not only in Darjeeling and Sikkim but also in faraway Tibet. For example, Sri Ram Mulchand of Kalimpong and Ramachandra Mintri Gangtok began to supply all the food provision and necessary stores to the British Political Office at Gangtok and Tibet, as the Political Office was in charge of Sikkim, Bhutan and Tibet affairs. Ramachandra Mintri acted as the Banker for the Political Office at Gangtok

and his firm was known as Chhotu Bank..."<sup>2</sup> I have written above that the Marwari businessmen took the Tibet-India trade to dizzy heights and as corroboration I produce two extracts. The first one written in 1947 runs as follows: "Over a lakh mounds of wool (3,846 tons) arrive annually in Kalimpong on caravans of mules conducted by Tibetans and in addition about 19,000 mounds are carted from Gangtok to Kalimpong. Practically none of the wool is consumed locally; it is all sorted and baled in warehouses in Kalimpong bazaar and then exported to the plains. Formally Kalimpong was only a receiving center and all the wool received was dispatched in its original state to Calcutta for Liverpool. Sorting and baling in Kalimpong ready for shipment was encouraged by the entry of American merchants into the market. Since 1930 Kalimpong balers have shipped directly to America."<sup>3</sup> The above text refers to the early and mid 1940s but the trade actually peaked in the 1950s and for that we go to the second extract. "Money poured in, the daily turnover in the busy winter months being estimated at Rs 40 million. ... More than

10,000 men were employed in sorting out mounds of ... wool from Tibet ... Thousands more provided fodder and maize for the mules ... Apart from wool and KMT silver, the caravans brought yak's tails, musk, borax, curios, and Chinese rice. They took back cement, kerosene, all the manufactures of Indian factories, and even a car for the Dalai Lama that was dismantled and carted up piece by piece."<sup>4</sup> Trade was terrific and the writer Spencer Chapman noted, "Last year the price for wool at Kalimpong was five pence per pound; this year it is eleven..." It was in a way just too good to last, wasn't it!

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1 Sir Charles Bell: TIBET Past and Present, Oxford as the Clarendon Press, London, 1924, p. 19.

2 K.S. Singh (Ed.): People of India, SIKKIM, Vol XXXIX, Anthropological Survey of India, Seagull Books, Calcutta, 1993, p.130.

3 Arthur Jules Dash: Bengal District Gazetteers DARJEELING, Bengal Government Press, Alipore, 1947, p.167.

4 Sunnanda K. Dutta-Ray: Smash and Grab, Annexation of Sikkim, Vikas Publishing House P, Ltd., New Delhi, 1984, p.112.



# Darjeeling Early Political History

The District was part of the dominions of the Raja of Sikkim. In 1706 what is now the Kalimpong subdivision of the District was taken from the Raja of Sikkim by the Bhutanese. The Rajas later became engaged in unsuccessful struggles with the Gurkhas who had sized power in Nepal and invaded Sikkim in 1780. During the next 30 years they overran Sikkim as far east as the Tista and conquered and annexed the Tarai. In the meantime war broke out between the East India Company and the Nepalese at the end of which in 1817 by the treaty of Titaliya the tract which the Nepalese had wrested from the Raja of Sikkim was ceded to the Company. The Company restored the whole of the country between the Mechi and the Tista to the Raja and guaranteed his sovereignty. Sikkim was thus maintained as a

buffer State between Nepal and Bhutan.

The District was included in the Rajshahi Division until October 1905 when, as a result of the Partition of Bengal, it was transferred to the Bhagalpur Division. With the re-arrangement of the provinces it was retransferred to the Rajshahi Division in March 1912.

The District was formerly a non-regulation District, that is to say, Acts and Regulations did not come into force unless they were specially extended to the District. Darjeeling had no representative in the Legislative Council constituted under the Government of India Act 1919. It was excluded and declared a backward tract. The Administration of the District was not subject to vote of the Legislature. The effect of exclusion was that any Act passed by the Legislature which extended to

the whole of Bengal automatically applied to the Darjeeling District, unless the Government in Council directed that the Act in question should not apply or that it should apply subject to such notifications as the Governor thought proper.

As the District is a partially excluded area under section 92 of the Government of India Act of the Provincial or Central Legislature applies to it unless the Governor by public notification so directs and the Governor in giving such a direction with respect to any Act may direct that the Act shall, in its application to the District, or to any specified part of it, have effect subject to such exception or modifications as he thinks fit.

(Bengal District  
Gazetteers Darjeeling)  
A.J.Dash, C.I.F.

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## Voices

By Jaunita Mukhia

I hear them flowing down the vales,  
 I hear them murmuring in the shadows,  
 I hear them above the din of confusion  
 I hear them above the clamour of my brains.

They greet me at the break of dawn.....  
 And bid adieu when the sun goes down.  
 They await me in the depths of my soul.  
 They are there for me at work and at play.  
 Their voices echo outside those walls  
 And resound inside my "inner being".

They hug me with their warmth and concern,  
 They whisper prayers into my soul.  
 They rebuke me, for to regain my strength,  
 They sing to soothe a heart in pain.  
 Men and women, both old and young  
 Children and infants both join in the song.  
 They fan the soul to ease the pain,  
 As they attempt to erase, the darkness of yesterday.

I hear a waging war within me.  
 I hear a raging flare within me.  
 I hear disharmonious chords within me  
 And I hear conflicts warring within me.

I hear them questioning the Power of Zeus.  
 I hear them questioning the birth of "Eris" and "Ares"

I hear them questioning the power of "Venus"  
 I hear them revolting against "Eros".  
 And I hear them questioning the "Fates" they gave me.

I hear the duet of "Pax" and "Eirene",  
 Twill be "Alright" is what they say.  
 I hear the calling of "Concordia" and "Sekhmet"  
 'Twas was for the better, is what I hear them say.  
 I hear the cries of "Kalte" through the night  
 Twill surely wipe your tears away  
 Twill surely bring a brand new day.

## Reference:

Zeus: Supreme ruler of the gods

Eris: Goddess of discord. She frequently accompanies her brother Ares to battles.

Venus: Goddess of Love

Eros: Eros is the god of love.

Pax: Roman goddess of peace

Eirene: Greek goddess of peace

Concordia: Roman goddess of peace and harmony

Sekhmet: Egyptian goddess of peace and compassion

Kalte: Moon goddess of rejuvenation (Mythology of Western Serbia)

## DEATH

BY KRITIKA CHHETRI, S.J.C.

Every time I write a line,  
 I live my life.  
 Gather my thoughts  
 For the readers mind,  
 Where I will never die  
 For they will not forget me,  
 But remember as a shadow  
 Which fades with time.  
 And one day I will die again  
 My final death.

## Kalimpong ~ an ode

By IAN C. MASON

Oh town that would be gates to forbidden  
 Lands many midnights ago: I have seen  
 Your coldly muffled winters being  
 Unlocked by an orange sun  
 Hinged to a sea - dirt sky while  
 The graveyard silence of your statue  
 Snows echoed like refrains from a funeral chant

Then I have heard school children sing football  
 Cheers under straining umbrellas  
 With lacerated fruits-skins in their  
 Breaths while the tourist who wears a  
 Deadpan expression and  
 Summer clothes shoots his pictures to take  
 Back home and never to return again.

And I have felt your knife edged winds flick  
 Along your lifeless roads with cigarette  
 Packets and peanut shells to rain  
 Against the walls of paint poxed  
 Quite houses where pariah dogs  
 Bark through moonless nights and children cry  
 In the chaffed evening when 'spirits' are soaring high.

I have let my eyes swim your swollen  
 Rivers when they screamed in hate and cut off  
 Your nerves, leaving you bloodless and  
 Then I have tossed through countless  
 Power-cut nights wondering  
 Where all the yester-years have been crushed  
 Along with their unfinished songs and dried-up tunes.  
 (Extracted from the book "Butterflies in Heaven"  
 which is a collection of poetry by I. C. Mason)

So you think that  
you know everything  
about your town????  
Try answering the  
following questions on  
Kalimpong and find  
out how well  
you  
actually know  
your town!!!

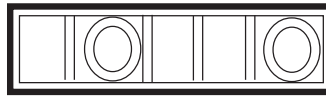
Answer the following questions correctly and  
rush in your answers in a plain sheet of  
paper alongwith the coupon given below to  
win a sleek Parker Vector Ball Pen courtesy  
Ad- Venture Creations, Kalimpong.  
Your entry must reach us by 28<sup>th</sup> of July  
2004.

1. Who was the first MLA of Kalimpong?
2. Name the first SDO of Kalimpong.
3. On which date and year was the treaty of Sinchula signed?
4. When was Kalimpong College started?
5. When was the Siliguri-Kalimpong Railway Line (Teesta Valley Line) started?

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# jumble jumble

**SUMID**



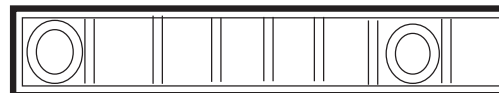
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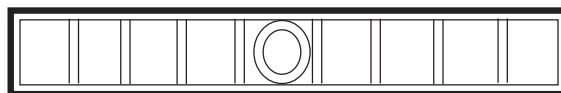
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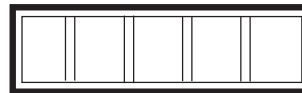
**NAYAGLIN**



**HAKATROLY**



**HINT: LOCAL ANIMALS**



Complete the above Jumble and send in your entry with the coupon given below by the 28th of July 2004 to win a free lunch for two at Soods Garden Retreat, Kalimpong. The winner will be decided by a draw of lots. The correct answer to the Jumble published last week is-

**TAKI, GURAS, CHANP, NAKIMA, BETLOURI, SUNAKHARI & BHUI CHAMPA**

The names of all those who sent correct entries for the last jumble are-

Mrs. Mamta & Ganesh, Sylvester Subba, Nima Sherpa, Ramesh Chhetri, G.N.Gurung, Rita Subba, Yunas Khan, R.B.Gurung, Shova Pradhan, Bikash Pradhan, Doma Bhutia, Angela Gurung, Sharon Lepcha and the winner is-

**S.K.Chhetri,  
Gangotri School,  
Kalimpong**



(This jumble has been constructed by Miss Ahana Gurung of Dr. Graham's Homes)



# PLATINUM PROVERBS

**By Juanita Mukhia**

My mother has always had a proverb for every situation and precision delivery is a knack only she has mastered. Be it in Nepali or English, the art of saying the utmost in a line has long been her choicest ammunition. Often my Mother used to say, “When poverty creeps in, love flies out of the window”. A proverb she reserved for special cases of love struck youngsters refusing to see the bad logic of getting involved with a “pair of pants”. The latter phrase was reserved for really bad choices in love, which would undoubtedly result in poverty. Over the years this homespun truth and a few such proverbs have had increasing relevance in the situations I faced living outside home for seven years. I have made an important deduction that rests on the fulcrum of love and poverty and it stem from my mother’s proverb.

In my first year in the big city I suffered from chronic big city, bright lights syndrome. The prevalent student lifestyle of living out of my means held me at ransom and I lived it up on a budget tightened on every corner by prying elders and caretakers. The taste of freedom blown out of proportion was good while the stock lasted. Unfortunately provisions ran short and the unthinkable yet unavoidable state of “being broke” left me and my friends deflated of cash and spirit. The veneer of friendship and amicability lasted exactly for a day. After a very short wait poverty took over the reins and the rash pledges of sisterhood during hey days flattened under mud-

slinging and angry accusations of who exhausted the treasury the most? Financial depression led me to tattle to my mother and the reply was a smooth “khair na pai, chala ko topi lai”. Pure vanity had led to poverty and love was the first to reach the dustbin.

I thought my first encounter with poverty had made me wiser to future threats. But repeated occasions of the same have convinced me that I am the stupid grasshopper that didn’t make hay while the sun was shining.

How love has been tested and tried by poverty in my seven years away for home. The legendary heat of an Indian summer coupled with an unprepared graduation exam around the corner is a malicious recipe for poverty of mind and mood. At such times living with your female allies and vying for percentages that God himself couldn’t grant on

account of being unprepared can be grueling. Sworn buddies become secret foes and notes from an academically acclaimed senior are a Pulitzer in the making. My mother’s answer to this stressful situation was “aaphnu thailo baliyo rakhnu, saathi lai chor nalau nu”.

Since then I’ve travelled some distance and I am now embarking on bagging a purposeful profession. Adjectives for responsibility picked from resumes are locked in the glands in my throat. With maturity, professional poverty is burdening me with a sense of accountability and leaving me bereft of time for love. After seven years of hedonism I am trying to apply this favorite phrase of my mother to “inculcate discipline”. I am afraid my attempts at self-improvisations are a little late and will prove another favorite proverb of my mother “marnay bayla ma hawaladar”.

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## Vegetable Cutlet

## CHEF'S CORNER

By Rajdeep Pradhan  
Fresh Bite's

## Ingredients (for 4 portions)

Potato Boiled and grated	100 gm	Paneer grated	50 gm
Chopped onions	1 tablespoon	Chopped Coriander leaves	½ teaspoons
Chopped Cabbage	20 gm	Chopped boiled carrots	20 gm
Chopped & Boiled Green Peas	20 gm	Chopped and boiled beans	20 gm
Chopped green chillies	½ tablespoon	Salt & Pepper	to taste
Basan for binding		Bread crumbs	10 gm
Oil for deep frying		Water	½ cup

## Method

- Add two tbsp of oil in a karai, sauté garlic for a while then add 1 tbsp of basan and sauté for about a minute in slow flame. Add all the chopped vegetables, paneer, season with salt, chopped onions, coriander leaves and chilly. Pour water and make a ball, keep aside.
- Make designed shape
- Take 3 tbsp of remaining basan, add ½ cup of water, season with a pinch of salt. Make a batter.
- Dip the cutlet into the batter, roll out on the bread crumbs and fry in hot oil till golden brown in colour.
- Serve with chutney or sauce.

## Glenary's

## Glenary's Coffee Shop

T	Breakfast Combos	T	Chicken Platter
T	Indian Meal Combos	T	Nuggets/Cutlets
T	Burgers/Pizzas	T	Ice Cream
T	Sodas/Milk Shakes/Lassis		

Main Road, Kalimpong



This Photograph taken in the second quarter of the 20th Century is of the barbers who used to set up shop at Haat Bazar, twice each week. Gradually this practice was discontinued with the barbers opening shops at different places of the town.

**The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily that of Himalayan Times**

### on the contributors

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<b>DR. S.B.WANGYE L</b>	is a Jaigoan based doctor. He is considered an authority in the history of the region. Was previously associated with the Statesman.
<b>REZA PRADHAN</b>	is the correspondent of The Telegraph in Kalimpong. Is considered as a one of the most promising upcoming journalists in the region.
<b>JAUNITA MUKHIA</b>	is a young writer based in Kalimpong. Was previously working in Delhi.
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<b>RAJDEEP PRADHAN</b>	is the owner of Fresh Bite restaurant. Has worked as a Chef in some of the leading hotels round the world.

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